
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Child Development

Overview

The Child Development General Fund standing appropriation is intended for programs for at-risk children. The appropriation is allocated to four areas: Area Education Agencies (AEAs), the Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC), innovative programs for at-risk early elementary students, and Department of Education (DE) administrative costs. If the standing appropriation is limited for a given fiscal year, the amounts allocated to these purposes are prorated.

Area Education Agencies

The standing appropriation allocation to the AEAs is \$275,864 to assist school districts in developing program plans for at-risk children. This is also referred to as the Early Childhood Network, and the funds partially support 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) position at each AEA to provide technical assistance to early childhood programs within its region.

Child Development Coordinating Council

The standing allocation to the CDCC is \$8.5 million. The CDCC was established during the 1988 Legislative Session in Iowa Acts chapter 1130 to promote child development services to at-risk children ages three and four. The CDCC advises and assists the DE in the administration and implementation of the following two programs:

- **Shared Visions Parent Support Program.** Parent Support Programs serve families with income below 125.0% of the federal poverty level. The programs consist of individual home visitation and/or group-based parent support services focusing on parenting skills, child growth and development, building of self-concept, nutrition, positive guidance techniques, family resource management, parent literacy, and accessing available supportive services from different agencies that are available to families with young children who are at risk. The Program received \$691,069 in FY 2013 from the CDCC to support nine programs serving 1,036 children ages 0 to 5 and their families. Approximately 10.0% of the standing appropriation to the CDCC is designated for the Shared Visions Parent Support Program.

More Information

Child Development Coordinating Council: www.educateiowa.gov/resources/boards-committees-councils-and-task-forces/child-development-coordinating-council-cdcc#CDCC_Policies

Shared Visions Preschool Program: www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/early-childhood/shared-visions-preschool-program

Shared Visions Parent Support Program: www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/early-childhood/shared-visions-parent-program

Shared Visions Annual Report: www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/CDCC%202012-13%20Annual%20Report-Final%20Draft.pdf

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- **Shared Visions Preschool Program.** The preschool programs are for at-risk children ages 3 to 5 with family income below 130.0% of the federal poverty level. The Preschool Program received \$6.5 million in FY 2013 from the CDCC to provide 101 preschool grants supporting 119 classrooms (25 fully funded classrooms and 94 partially funded classrooms). Preschool services through the Program were provided to 1,726 children in FY 2013.

All Shared Visions Preschool Programs are required to achieve and maintain accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the national standard of high-quality early childhood programs. All programs are required to use the Teaching Strategies GOLD Online Assessment System, a common statewide child assessment. The GOLD Assessment System focuses on research-based objectives for development and learning that are predictors of school success and aligned with the Iowa Early Learning Standards.

Innovative Programs for At-Risk Early Elementary Students

The standing appropriation allocation for innovative programs for early elementary (kindergarten through third grade) at-risk students is \$3.5 million, and is allocated based on a competitive grant award process to school districts that demonstrate the greatest need for programs for at-risk students. School districts receiving grants must provide activities and materials designed to encourage self-esteem, provide role modeling and mentoring techniques in social competence and social skills, and discourage inappropriate drug use. The allocation requires \$75,000 be allocated to school districts with a student population of less than 10,000 that have more than 5.0% non-English speaking students.

For the 2016-2017 school year, 94 school buildings across 31 districts were eligible to receive funding for an innovative program for at-risk early learners. A total of 77 school buildings across 17 districts applied for grants; 40 buildings were awarded grants. Beginning in FY 2018, funds are awarded on a three-year cycle, with annual renewal contingent on the school receiving funds meeting the requirements set in Iowa administrative code.

Funding

Child Development is funded annually through a General Fund standing limited appropriation. In some years, the amount of the appropriation has been less than the statutory amount. The standing appropriation includes an allocation of \$282,600 to the Department of Education for administrative costs relating to implementation of the programs for at-risk children.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [256A](#)

Iowa Code section [279.51](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—64](#), [281—65](#), and [281—67](#)